

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2743

LIMDIS NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, LI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

1. FONMIN CECIL DENNIS IS DEPARTING THIS MORNING, THURSDAY, 13 APRIL FOR ONE-DAY VISIT TO CONAKRY WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO MEET PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. DENNIS WILL BE CARRYING A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT WHICH SUMMARIZES THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND TOLBERT DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT 3 APRIL.

2. AMBASSADOR CARTER HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE TOLBERT/TOURE LETTER. THE LETTER GIVES CONSIDERABLE INSIGHT INTO THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN GUINEA AND LIBERIA AND IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S POSITIVE REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP. READERS SHOULD RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS EXCHANGE AND PROTECT AMBASSADOR CARTER AS THE SOURCE IN OBTAINING THE DOCUMENT.

3. LETTER FOLLOWS:

QTE HIS EXCELLENCY AHMED SEKOU TOURE APRIL 4, 1978

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

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MY DEAR FRIEND AND BROTHER:

IN KEEPING WITH OUR POLICY OF MAINTAINING REGULAR CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, I AM TAKING THE OCCASION OF THE TRAVEL TO CONAKRY OF MY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO INFORM YOU OF THE VISIT TO MONROVIA OF THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WHICH OCCURRED ON MONDAY, THE 3

RD INSTANT. PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER, ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT ARRIVED ROBERTSFIELD AT 11:20 A.M. ON MONDAY. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO DEPART AT 3:10 P.M., THE VISIT LASTED AN ADDITIONAL HOUR.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL TIES WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA, PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER AND THEIR PARTY WERE ACCORDED A WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME BY THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE, WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE TOUCHED THEM DEEPLY. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT WAS RATHER BRIEF, WE DID TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE GREAT ISSUES OF MOMENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE AFFECTING AFRICA AND ITS QUEST TO HASTEN THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

I ENDEAVORED TO REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) ON THESE MATTERS, STRESSING THAT WITH EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF ITS INFLUENCE AND POWER, THE UNITED STATES COULD AID IN THE REALIZATION OF AN EARLY INDEPENDENCE WITH MAJORITY RULE FOR ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA AND THE ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. I WAS ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSURANCES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO LEND ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES.

OUR TALKS ALSO TOUCHED ON PROBLEMS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND WESTERN SAHARA. WE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED REGIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND IN THIS CONNECTION, NOTED THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS) COULD PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT SPEEDY DEVELOPMENT IN OUR SUBREGION AND SERVING AS A CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTINENT AS A WHOLE. WE ALSO ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO THE GLOBALIZATION OF DETENTE AND THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER THAT WOULD BE FAIR AND JUST.

PRESIDENT CARTER WAS FORTHRIGHT IN ADVOCATING HIS RENOWNED POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WE SHARED COMMON VIEWS ON THE MAJOR TENETS OF THIS POLICY. I MUST SAY THAT ON ALL THE ISSUES RAISED DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS, I WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER.

THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA ALSO FORMED PART OF OUR DISCUSSIONS AND I APPRISED HIM OF OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, OUR STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES.

IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS HIGHLY COMMENDATORY OF YOU AS HE SPOKE WITH ME CONCERNING THE RECENT RECONCILIATION SUMMIT HELD IN MONROVIA. HE WAS HEARTENED BY OUR DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE INTRA-AFRICAN DIFFERENCES IN THE AFRICAN

TRADITION AND HE REVEALED THAT HE HAD SENT YOU A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION OF GREAT STATESMANSHIP AT THE SUMMIT. OF COURSE, I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM OF OUR OWN CLOSE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE POLICY OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE OBSERVED OVER THE YEARS.

WHILE IS IS TRUE THAT IN 1943 PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROSSEVELT TRANSITED ROBERTSFIELD WHERE HE HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT EDWIN BARCLAY, YET IN VISITING BOTH NIGERIA AND LIBERIA PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BECOME THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO PAY A STATE VISIT TO AFRICA. MY OWN ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE VISIT EVIDENCES THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RECOGNIZED THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, AND HENCE IS NOW PREPARED TO ASSUME ITS MORAL OBLIGATION AS A MAJOR POWER TO LEND LEGITIMATE SUPPORT TO THE STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

I AM ENTRUSTING WITH MY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WILL DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO YOU, COPY EACH OF MY WELCOME STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS RESPONSE THERE TO AS WELL AS THE BRIEF REMARKS WHICH WE BOTH MADE FOLLOWING OUR WORKING LUNCHEON.

YOUR SISTER "VIC" JOINS ME IN EXTENDING TO YOU AND OUR SISTER ANDREA OUR LOVE, AFFECTION AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR CONTINUING GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS AND FOR THE ENDURING PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FRATERNAL PEOPLE OF GUINEA.

SINCERELY, YOUR FRIEND AND BROTHER,
W. R. TOLBERT, JR.
UNQTE.
CARTER

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